Export of Castor Oil to Russia

3945. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any restrictions on the export of Castor oil to Russia and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when these were imposed;

(c) whether it is now proposed to remove those restrictions; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Import and Export Policy on Cotton

3946. SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimation of cotton crops for the year 1992-93;

(b) whether the Import and Export Policy on cotton announced recently has affected the price of unginned cotton;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this is likely to affect the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No estimate of cotton crop for the 1992-93 cotton season can be made at this stage.

(b) No fresh policy on Import and Export of cotton has been announced recently.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Constitution of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

3947. SHRI HARI KUSHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to constitute a National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The public sector banks are required to take various steps to facilitate adequate flow of credit to minority communities which, inter alia. including setting up of special cells in each bank, reviewing regularly the flow of credit to minority communities and progress made in this regard at the meeting of the District Consultative Committees and State Level Bankers Committees, giving wide publicity about various anti-poverty programmes of the government wherever there is a large concentration of minority communities and particularly in 40 districts identified having concentration of minority communities, appointment of an officer exclusively to look after the problems regarding credit flow to minority communities by the lead banks in each of the 40 districts, organ-

ising Entrepreneurial Development Programmes by the lead banks in the 40 districts and introduction of revised format for monitoring the priority sector credit to minority communities for the 40 identified districts and for all the districts in the country on a quarterly basis. As per the data received from the public sector banks, the advances granted by them to the specified minority communities has increased from Rs. 428.62 crores in 7.89 lakh accounts as at the end of December, 1987 to Rs. 306.22 crores in 12.76 lakh accounts as at the end of June, 1991 in the 40 districts having concentration of the minority communities. As at the end of June, 1991, share of the priority sector advances to minority communities in 40 identified districts constituted 28.7% in terms of borrowal accounts and 14.2% in terms of the amount outstanding. For all the districts as on June, 1991, the share of the minority communities in terms of borrowal account constituted 15.9% and in terms of amount outstanding 11.6% respectively. In view of the above. there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to constitute a National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.

Involvement of Private Sector in Sugar Export

3948. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the private sector to enter the sugar export market; and

(b) if so, its likely impact on the foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Indian Sugar and General Industry Export Import Corporation Limited (ISGIEIC) is presently exporting sugar. It is an apex body representing all the sugar mills in the country. During 1991-92 (upto 21.2.92) sugar worth Rs. 323.15 crores has been exported.

Clearance to proposals for Establishing Firms Overseas.

3949. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to grant automatic clearance to those companies whose applications are for establishing firms overseas with foreign partners or wholly owned subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Revision of guidelines for setting up overseas joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries is under consideration of Govt.

Sick Industrial Units in Maharashtra

3950. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has recommended *closure of some sick industrial units in* Maharashtra:

(b) if so, the details of these units and the reasons for their sickness;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government on the recommendations of BIFR; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?